

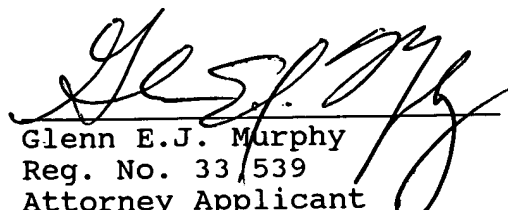
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 17 have been canceled and claims 18 to 33 added. The subject matter of the new claims is described in the specification at page 2, line 28 to page 3, line 15, page 3, lines 20-23, page 4, line 27 to page 5, line 4, page 5, line 17 to page 6, line 15, page 7, lines 10-24, and page 15, lines 18-23, as well as in the claims as originally filed. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications and headings appropriate to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

The new claims better claim the full literal and equivalent scope and breadth of subject matter disclosed in the application, notwithstanding applicants' belief that the original claims, drafted for examination in the German and European Patent Offices, would have been allowable but for minor matters of form, such as multiple dependency, multiple preferred embodiments in a single claim, and transitional phrases permitted in German practice but objected to in the U.S.P.T.O. The new claims find support in the application independent of the original claims and therefore are not believed to constitute narrowing amendments to the original claims within the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., No. 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and examination of the application. If any fees are due to enter this paper that have not been accounted for, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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